(c) and (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to set up hospitals/provide medical facilities to the people according to their need and resources available with them. As such no information is available with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with regard to planned new hospitals/dispensaries.

Demand of Blood

504. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that availability of blood in Delhi's Blood Banks has gone up and the gap between demand and supply continuous to widen;

(b) if so, the details of gap between demand and supply at present in various blood groups;

(c) whether Government have assessed the demand of blood on a year to year basis;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The availability of blood in Delhi's blood banks has improved from 2.69 lakh units in 2000-01, to 2.81 lakh units in 2001-02. The anticipated demand at that time was 2.8 lakh units. Presently, the level of blood supplies available in Delhi match the yearly demand. However, there are sporadic instances of shortage in a few blood banks.

(c) Yes, Sir. The demand has been assessed on a yearly basis as per the WHO norms.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The government is concentrating on augmenting voluntary blood donations and adopting strict donor deferral methods. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation program, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through TV, AIR and newspapers, developing IEC material

for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation.

Practice of Ayurvedic Massage

†505. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreigners are being looted in the name of Panchkarma (Ayurvedic);

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this manner Ayurveda as well as the country is being brought into disrepute;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these days the practice of Ayurvedic massage is in vogue; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to save domestic as well as foreign tourists from these quacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Panchkarma is an Ayurvedic medical procedure. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments and Ministry of Tourism to regulate Panchkarma Centres strictly according to approved procedure and other requirements. Panchkarma is becoming popular. Government do not have information about Centres indulging in malpractices.

Non-availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries

506. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prescribed medicines, both Allopathic and Ayurvedic, are not available in the CGHS Dispensaries for dispensing to the beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many banned and expired drugs are dispensed across the counter in medical stores, CGHS dispensaries and Government hospitals in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to put an end to this problem?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.